SCARLETT HACKED, YOU SEE HER NUDE
THE WORD {page 12}

GOING OUT:
INTERVIEWS, DRINKS
LISTINGS, MUSIC ... {pages 19-24}

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Thursday, September 15, 2011

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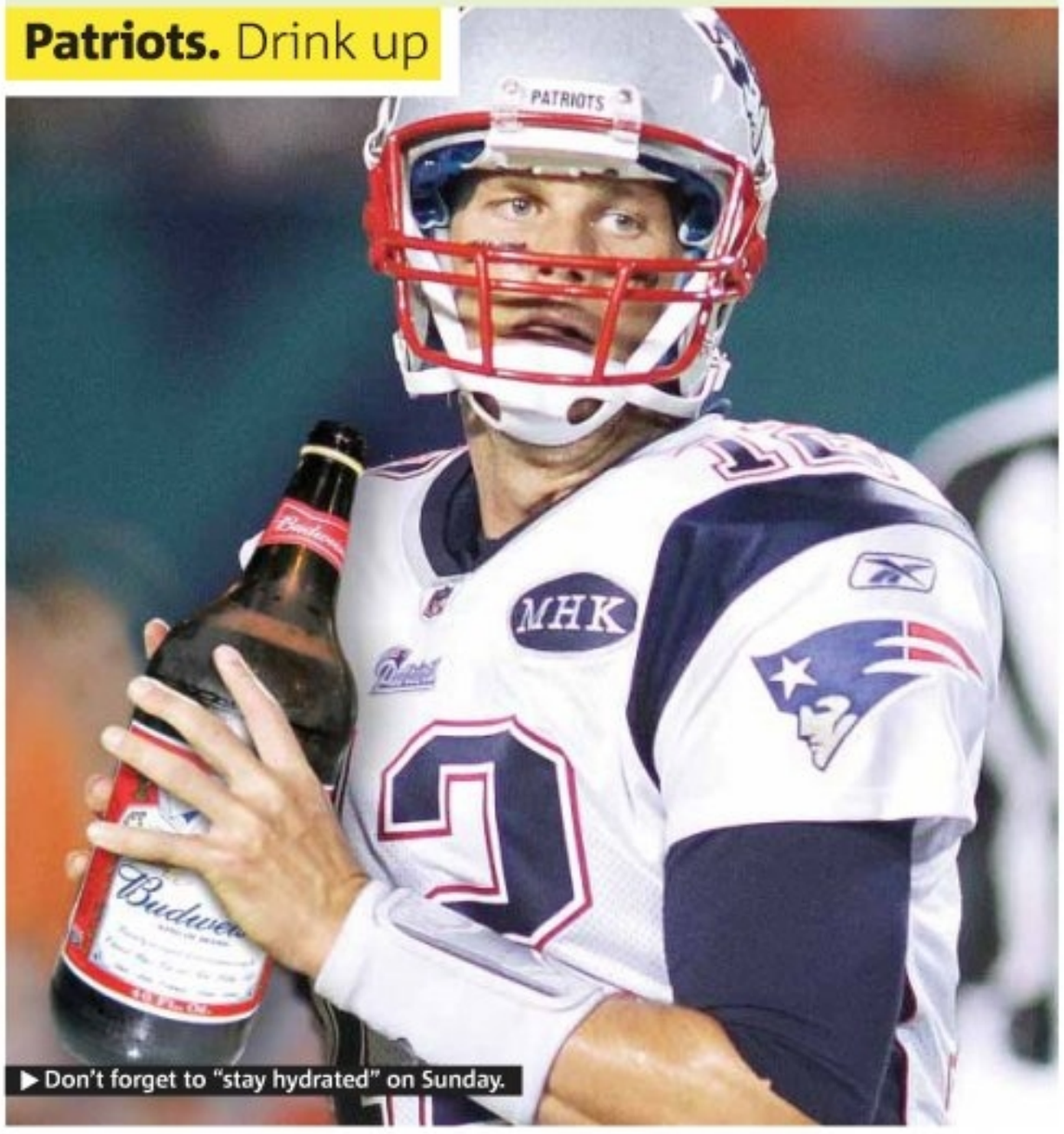
Patriots. Drink up



▶ Don't forget to "stay hydrated" on Sunday.

Tom Brady tells fans: Get blitzed

A drunk crowd is a loud crowd. And Tom Brady wants Gillette Stadium rocking on Sunday. "Start drinking early," he told fans yesterday. A team spokesman clarified his remarks, but it was hardly necessary: For once, a joke came off as a joke. {page 06}

T's South Station gets $32.5M for renovation

Improvements will be made to tracks, platforms, passenger facilities and infrastructure {page 02}

News

Sarah Palin's steamy night with NBA star?

Unauthorized biography says she slept with Glen Rice {page 09}

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South Station on track for big improvements

$32 million federal grant awarded to MassDOT ◗ Funds will go toward preliminary conceptual design ◗ Money will pay for construction estimates

MASSDOT

▶ This artist's rendering shows what the streetscape around South Station is slated to look like in the near future.

South Station hasn't seen a significant upgrade in several decades, according to Mass DOT Secretary Rich Davey.

In the 1980s, the transportation hub was even considered unnecessary to some people in the city, and almost got knocked down, he said.

But the Federal Railroad Administration has taken notice of the iconic station's role in connecting commuters between cities, and awarded MassDOT $32.5 million to expand and enhance the historic railway's site.

"It's the most significant transit asset in New England," said Davey. "The Federal government can see the commitment by the commonwealth to improve its rail system."

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said the grant will let the transit agency complete preliminary environmental reviews and engineering activities for future expansion to "meet the needs of the traveling public."

"Revitalizing and modernizing South Station is not only crucial to accommodating projected population growth, it will create jobs and grow the region's economy," LaHood said in a statement.

According to LaHood, South Station is operating beyond its capacity and expects a 50 percent increase in high-speed passenger rail travel in the coming years.

Davey said the $32 million "planning grant" will go toward developing a conceptual design and is the beginning phase of a multiyear process.

The grant proposal was submitted by MassDOT earlier this year, said Davey, and the state agency will contribute $10.5 to this portion of the project.

"This lets us put some muscle behind the project," he said.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Platform changes are on tap, too.

Station rehab

- **Development of a new** layover facility for train storage
- **Improvements to existing** tracks, platforms, passenger facilities and infrastructure.
- **Demolition and relocation** of an existing, adjacent U.S. Postal Service facility
- **Improved streetscape,** pedestrian, bicycle, local transit and vehicular facilities in and around the station
- **Develop a cost estimate** for the construction phase of the project.

By the numbers

300
Number of trains that operate from South Station

70K+
Number of people that use commuter rail daily

13
Number of tracks at South Station

9
Number of tracks they are looking to add

STEVE ANNEAR
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In the news

25%

The Bay State could also be known as the Fit State with a quarter of its population having a gym membership in the last year. The data was released as part of a survey by the International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association. The national average was 17 percent per state.

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

State to review day cares

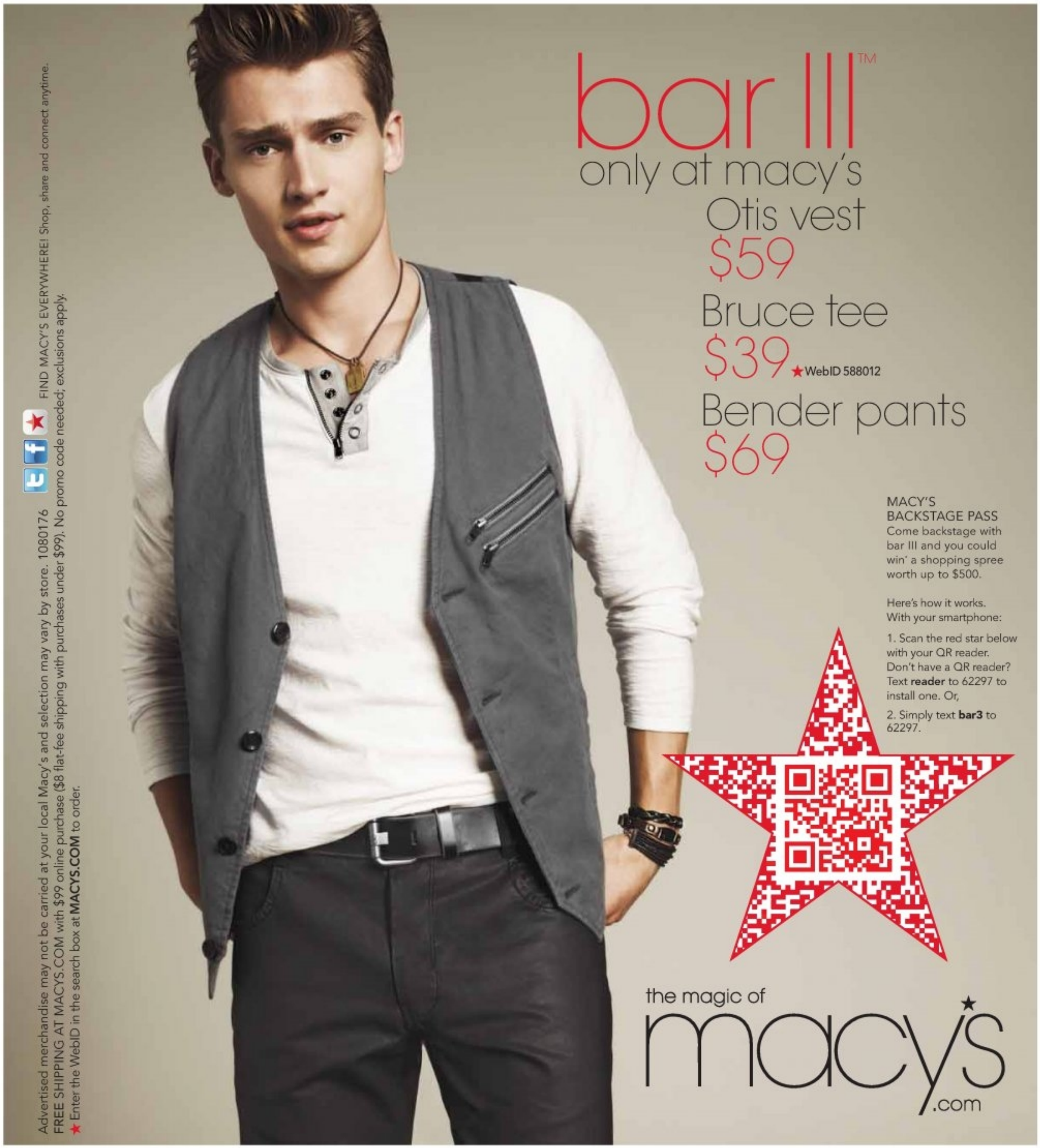
BOSTON. A state agency will form a special committee to review procedures following the death of a toddler left on board a school van in Dorchester this week. The Board of Early Education and Care will form a board to look into the death of 17-month-old Gabriel Josh-Cazir Pierre, according to the Globe. The van in which Pierre was left alone was parked in front of a day care. That facility will face a hearing today on multiple violations. METRO

Man charged in South End stabbing

BOSTON. A suspect charged with fatally stabbing a 22-year-old South End man yesterday was held without bail, according to Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, as authorities seek the public's help in identifying other potential suspects. Steven Rolley, 29, was charged with murdering Justin Albert near the intersection of Tremont and Cunard streets. Rolley was arraigned in Roxbury District Court and charged for allegedly stabbing the South End man in the neck and stomach. METRO

Bulger lawyer calls time

BOSTON. The attorney for alleged fugitive mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger said he needs more time to review the "massive" amount of evidence provided to him by the government. Bulger's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr., requested another status conference in November during yesterday's hearing, which Bulger did not attend. METRO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Gambling debate officially under way

After years of rejection, casino gambling in the Bay State inched closer to passage yesterday with the start of debate at the State House. House members debated the expanded gambling legislation that calls for three casinos and a slot facility. The bill seemingly has a more promising future this session compared to past years.

Rep. Joseph Wagner, (D-Chicopee) "Thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue annually serve as the cornerstone of the legislation before us."

Rep. Paul Frost, (R-Auburn) "We need to acknowledge and address that people have a right to make their own choices that people have a right to sometimes make a mistake. We can't legislate everything people do in their lives."

Rep. Ruth Balser, (D-Newton) "This is the wrong direction for Massachusetts. If we look at the experience of other states we will see this is a failed experiment. This is a race to the bottom."

Rep. Jonathan Hecht, (D-Watertown) "The fact is there are other ways, better ways, that would create more jobs more quickly … without all the human, social and economic costs associated with expanded gambling." METRO

QB wants fans to get blitzed; groups urge responsibility

Tom Brady said he wants fans 'rowdy' for home opener Spokesman later clarifies Brady's comments

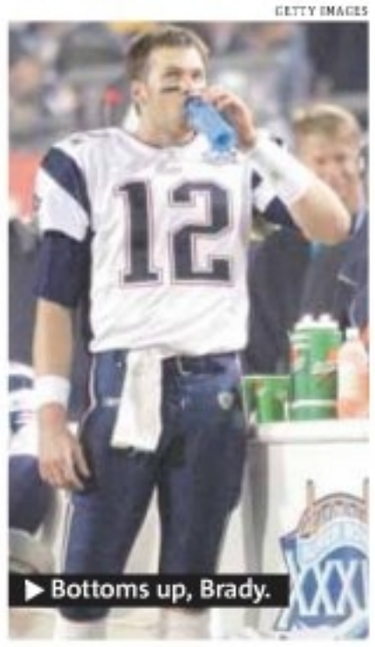
As the Patriots quarterback, Tom Brady is usually the one getting blitzed.

But for Sunday's home opener, Brady said he wants to see the fans at Gillette Stadium to "get nice and rowdy."

"Yeah, start drinking early," Brady said yesterday when asked for a message for fans. "4:15 game. Lot of time to get lubed up, come out here and cheer for their home team."

A Patriots spokesman quickly clarified the comments and told reporters that Brady meant for fans to "stay hydrated" and be loud and responsible.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Bottoms up, Brady.

However, Brady's remarks spread rapidly yesterday and had already made their way on to various media websites.

Attending football games traditionally means hours of drinking for many fans, some of whom drink to excess and end up being arrested.

Foxborough Police Chief Ed O'Leary would not comment on Brady's remarks because he hadn't heard them, but said he hopes people are responsible when drinking Sunday.

David DeIuliis, a spokesman for Mothers Against Drunk Driving Massachusetts, said the comments were not concerning and believed that most people realize Brady is a reasonable person.

"We would hope fans going to the stadium would make responsible decisions with how much alcohol they will consume and make plans to get home," he said.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

117

More than 100 people were placed in protective custody during a Patriots vs. Jets game last December, many for extreme intoxication. Fifteen were arrested for crimes that also included assault and battery or criminal trespassing.

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Council mulls dropout change

- Councilors look to raise dropout age from 16 to 18
- Home rule petition to effect changes moves forward

When you're 16, you can't drink, you can't vote and you can't buy tobacco. You can drop out of high school, though.

But City Councilors Tito Jackson and John Connolly are looking to change that and continued their fight yesterday to raise the eligibility age for school-ditchers from 16 to 18.

"We ... allow a 16-year-old to put a low ceiling on their future by leaving school," said Connolly during a city council meeting.

Efforts to file a home rule petition at the state level to make the changes moved forward yesterday, and a hearing on the proposed bill was scheduled for next week.

▶ Too cool for school?

Jackson said city officials could to change the lives of young people in Boston and give them a good start to life.

"We live in a city with 34 colleges and universities and 150,000 college students and we want [BPS] kids to have the opportunity to land in one of those universities," he said.

But Councilor Bill Linehan, having been a troubled student himself, doesn't think the city should mandate a law to keep kids in class, he said.

"[BPS] will have very destructive students ... with all the other good, matriculating students for two more years. One student in a class of 30 can make a mess of [that class]."

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Pump. Action

▶ Police speak to a suspect who was carrying a bicycle pump in a backpack, which caused a scare at 300 Huntington Ave. when individuals reported a man with a gun.

Alleged gun was a bike pump

Police responded to 300 Massachusetts Ave. yesterday for a report of "a person with a gun," who was allegedly wearing a mask and entering a building. When police arrived on scene, they found out the alleged gun the suspect was carrying was a bicycle pump. After clearing the area, police deemed there was no viable threat, but the suspect was sent for mental evaluation, according to reports. METRO

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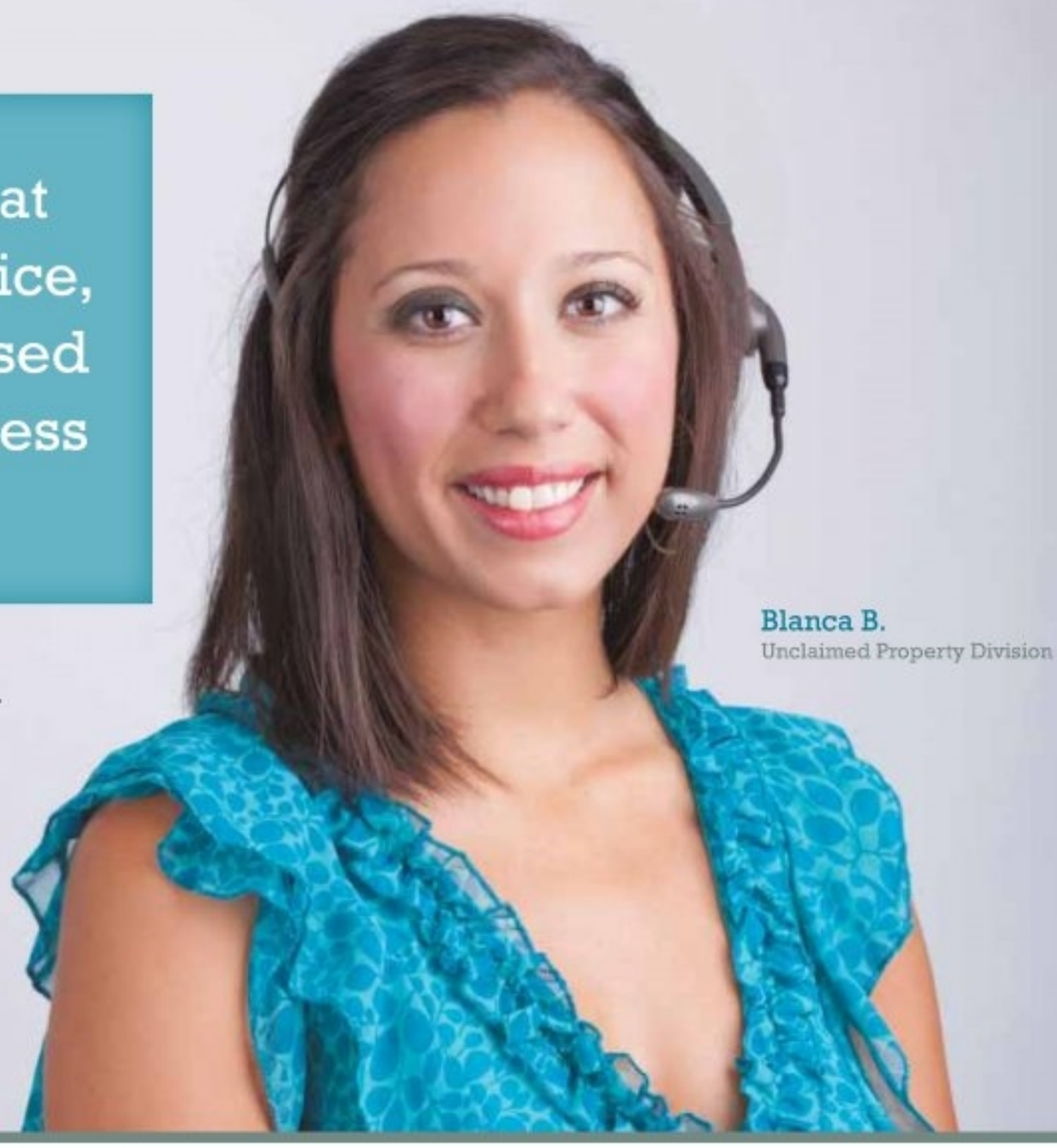
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Department of the State Treasurer
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A little action with a basketball star?

Biography says Palin seduced pro baller Glen Rice in 1987 Rice confirms to author he went rogue with her

As a young television reporter covering the Great Alaska Shootout basketball tournament in 1987, former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin apparently didn't mind mixing work with pleasure, according to an excerpt from a forthcoming biography, the National Enquirer reported yesterday.

The book by Joe McGinniss, titled "The Rogue: Searching for the Real Sarah Palin," claims the Republican Party darling had a steamy meeting with then-University of Michigan basketball star Glen Rice, who played in the tournament, according to the Enquirer's online report.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Oh my.

Alas, Alaska doesn't have the same mantra as Las Vegas, because the 6-foot, 7-inch small forward Rice reportedly confirmed to McGinniss that he did in fact do the deed with Palin, the report said.

McGinniss started his journalism career back in the 1960s, working at both the Philadelphia Bulletin and Inquirer before moving on to books after an early success chronicling Richard Nixon's presidency. He also is the same guy in the news a couple years ago when he rented a house in Wasilla, Alaska — Palin's hometown — directly next to the Palin home.

A publishing source also told the scandal-laden tabloid that Palin used cocaine before becoming the governor of Alaska.

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LARRY DOWNING/REUTERS

Jobs. Approval

▶ President Obama spoke at North Carolina State University yesterday about the American Jobs Act.

Poll: Jobs bill gives Obama boost

President Barack Obama's approval rating got a small lift after he unveiled a jobs plan last week, a Reuters/Ipsos poll said yesterday. The percentage of Americans who view Obama's performance favorably edged up to 47 percent. REUTERS

Perry touts his journey to faith

LYNCHBURG, VA. Republican presidential frontrunner Rick Perry described his spiritual journey to find God to a crowd of evangelical Christian students yesterday and urged them to stand up for their religious values.

In a starkly personal speech, Perry told Liberty University students that when he left the Air Force at age 27 he was deeply worried about his future and spent hours in prayer. REUTERS

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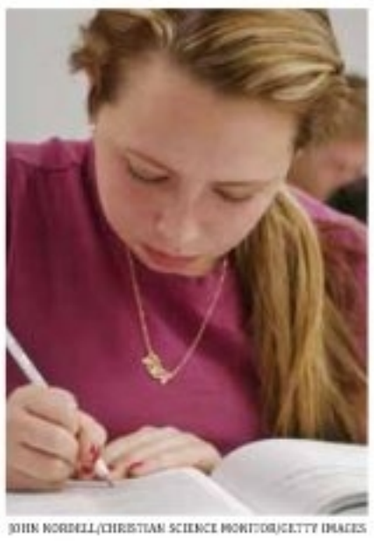
SAT scores down, poor take blame

Results are in for the national standardized test, and they're not good Drop attributed to student diversity

Average SAT scores for high school seniors declined three points in reading, one point in math and two points in writing from last year as a record number of students took the test used for admission at most U.S. colleges.

The average reading score of 497 marked the lowest since data became available in 1972, according to a report released by the College Board, which administers the exam. The math result of 514 has wavered within 1 point the past five years. The score for writing has fallen in all but one year since being added to the exam in 2005, and dropped to 489 this year.



JOHN NORDELL/CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR/GETTY IMAGES

The nonprofit College Board attributed declining scores to a larger and more diverse group taking the test, especially lower-income students and those who speak English as their second language. Blacks and Hispanics lagged behind their white peers, while Asian-Americans outperformed them in math and writing. Almost 1.65 million students in the 2011 graduating class took the test, according to the College Board.

The decline in scores undercuts academic progress cited under No Child Left Behind, the nation's main public schools law, said Bob Schaeffer, a spokesman for the National Center for Fair & Open Testing, a Boston-based nonprofit group critical of standardized exams. BLOOMBERG

Quiz. Winner

▶ Quiz Bowl answers are online at www.metro.us/answers

See? It pays to read!

Barry Kaufman of Cambridge, Mass, was the winner of Metro's Quiz Bowl contest, which ran in the July 4 editions, and is pictured here with his winner's check for $1,000. METRO

Study sniffs out secret to 'fishy' body odor

NEW YORK. For some people with troublesome, unexplained body odor, an uncommon genetic disorder once known as "fish-odor syndrome" may be to blame, a new study finds.

The condition, known clinically as trimethylaminuria, is caused by emitting excessive amounts of the compound trimethylamine (TMA). TMA is produced when we digest foods rich in a substance called choline — including saltwater fish, eggs, liver and certain legumes, like soy and kidney beans.

TMA is caused by defects in a gene known as FMO3. Those flaws hinder the body's ability to metabolize TMA and turn it into odor-free compounds. Only about 10 to 15 percent of sufferers exhibit the fishy smell. REUTERS

Credit Card Debt?

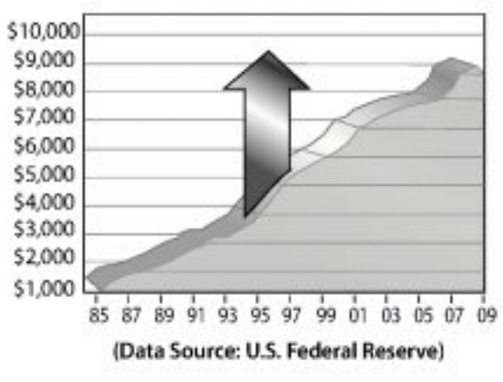
ADVERTORIAL

Solutions that can help you get out of debt.

Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at $2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.

U.S. CREDIT CARD DEBT PER HOUSEHOLD ($)



(Data Source: U.S. Federal Reserve)

CreditGUARD of America, a non-profit licensed debt management service provider, is making a new program available to lower debt payments and become free of all credit card debt in only three to five years. Consumers need only $2,000 or more in total credit card debt and falling behind on any account, to cut their payment by 35% to 50%, and reduce or eliminate interest charges altogether.

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5 Surprising census facts

More Americans in poverty, but that's not the only bad news Some earn now only what they took home in 1996

A new census report generated much buzz this week largely for its findings that 15.1 percent of Americans lived in poverty in 2010, the highest level in more than 15 years. But buried in the report were plenty of other findings that shed light on the financial health of the country's work force, or lack thereof.

MainStreet combed through the report to find five of the most surprising facts about how the country is living now in the aftermath of the recession.

CONTRIBUTED BY **The Street**

The new normal

1 Americans really need a raise. The median household income in 2010 was $49,445, a decline of more than 6 percent from 2007.

2 Homes are more crowded. There were 21.8 million doubled-up households in the spring of 2011, an increase of 2 million since the spring of 2007, just before the recession kicked into gear.

3 The elderly are doing just fine. Older households saw incomes increase by 7.5 percent between 2000 and 2010, making this the only age group to enjoy a net wage increase.

4 Men are being purged from the labor market. Between 2007 and 2010, the number of men working full time dropped by a massive 6.6 million.

5 More disabled Americans are without health care. There were 2.6 million disabled individuals between 18 and 64 who were not insured, up from 2.3 million the year before.

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ People wait in line outside of St. Francis Center for the opening of the soup kitchen in Los Angeles. According to a U.S. Census Bureau report, a record 46.2 million Americans are now living in poverty.

RIM shot: Apple the undisputed tablet king

NEW YORK. Research In Motion Ltd., depending on its new PlayBook to bolster sales as demand for its BlackBerry phones withers, may have shipped just one of the tablet computers last quarter for every 19 iPads from Apple.

The company, which reports earnings today, probably sold about 490,000 PlayBooks during the first full quarter of sales, according to a Bloomberg survey of analysts, compared with the 9.25 million iPads shipped last quarter. Analysts cut estimates for full-year PlayBook shipments, to an average of 2.2 million, according to the survey.

"RIM overplayed the PlayBook in terms of its sales and prospects," said Charlie Wolf, an analyst at Needham & Co. BLOOMBERG

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

– Dorothy Robinson will return on Tuesday.

Scarlett Johansson hacked!

The rarest of rare nude celebrity photos have hit the Internet: Shots of a person you'd actually want to see undressed who neither regularly undresses nor stars in a reality show (kind of a mood-killer).

We're talking, of course, about the **Scarlett Johansson** pics that went up yesterday morning. (Stop Googling — it's rude.) Even better, you can assume that they're real: The actress is reportedly working with the FBI because her cell phone was hacked, according to TMZ.

Before you start judging her, get back to Google and have a look. We've reviewed the photos — in the name of responsible journalism, of course — and can confirm that we'd swear off clothes forever if that's what we were hiding. Nicely done, Scarlett!

▶ She does, of course, also look lovely in a cocktail dress.

Paul Rudd is staying clothed, thank you

Although no one is complaining about the Scarlett photos, **Paul Rudd** isn't so sure audiences want to see him nude ever again. "I've been naked in a lot of my movies. There's something inherently funny about the naked male body, particularly mine," he says in the new Playboy. "Ryan Reynolds, sure, it makes sense why he'd strip down. But not me. I shouldn't be allowed to."

OK — tomorrow, everyone keeps their clothes on in The Word. Promise.

Jon Stewart geeks out

We love **Jon Stewart** here. But sometimes, we love him a little more when he takes a break from the (admittedly depressing) news to lighten up. He dishes on his **Bruce Springsteen** worship in the new Rolling Stone, and it might be the cutest, happiest thing we've read all week:

"When I listened to his music, I didn't feel like a loser. I felt like a character in an epic poem about losers. Plus, you would go see his show and he would blow your f—ing mind for four hours. At a certain point, you'd want to go up onstage and be like, 'Guys! ... You're giving too much! We do not deserve what you've done here tonight! A lot of us are jackasses!"

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Albert Brooks is moving on, Kristen Schaal is getting clinical, Gary Shandling is getting deep and Joan Rivers has a nose for news.

▶ **@AlbertBrooks**
Great time in Toronto. Great people. If you can make it here you can make it....well, in most parts of Canada.

▶ **@kristenschaaled**
I diagnosed my loneliness as premature empty nest syndrome.

▶ **@GarryShandling**
If somebody dies on twitter do we just stare at a blank screen for a minute in memory?

▶ **@joan_rivers**
A 42-year-old woman is being prosecuted for calling her ex 65,000 times in one year. Who knew Jennifer Aniston could dial that fast?

Talking points

Leo's not in it for the money

Leonardo DiCaprio has had plenty of box-office success — not that he's keeping score. "Throughout my career, I never knew which movies of mine made money and which didn't," he tells GQ. "The [money] stuff never mattered to me until I was into my 30s and got interested in producing. ... But even now I say that unless you want to prove that you can carry a film with your name, continuously trying to achieve box-office success is a dead end."

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Seyfried

Do tell, Amanda Seyfried ...

Amanda Seyfried isn't the type of actress to complain about onscreen intimacy. "Sex scenes are great. A lot of my co-stars have been sexy guys my age, and so, why not? I'm not going to pretend it's not fun," she tells W magazine. Her latest co-star to fit that bill — in the sci-fi thriller "In Time" — is Justin Timberlake. "Justin was great," she says. "He had come from 'Friends with Benefits,' where he basically had sex every day at work, and so it was easy for both of us."

Buy Hilary Duff's home

Hilary Duff is looking to unload her Toluca Lake home once again, according to AOL Real Estate. The pregnant singer first listed the 9,000-square-foot Spanish-style home in 2010 for $7 million but was unable to find a buyer. The home has been re-listed at $6.25 million.

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Great hips, hip gowns and the unexpected

1: Hello, hips! Christina Hendricks and Jennifer Hudson were at Self magazine's "Women Doing Good" awards on Tuesday.

2: Lily Cole, let's talk about the dress you wore at the Toronto International Film Festival on Tuesday: We love it. We're a little afraid of it (and you), but we love it.

3: Now, Olivia Wilde's TIFF dress? This is one we could have done without.

4: Jennifer Garner was pretty in pink in Toronto. (Why do we feel like she was in a movie with this title? Five or so years ago? Anyone?)

5: Metro photographer Courtney Sacco shot Jeff Bridges in Charlestown, shooting the upcoming film "R.I.P.D." You want him to dress up like Colonel Mustard? The Dude abides.

6: Every time we remember that Charlie and The Waitress are happily married (and expecting!) in real life, we smile. Mary Elizabeth Ellis and Charlie Day were supercute at the Season 7 premiere of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

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TV watch list

'The Secret Circle'

DRAMA. Cassie (Britt Robertson) discovers she's a witch after her mother passes away in a mysterious accident, and the teen is forced to move in with her grandmother. But in the whole abracadabra thing, Cassie's not alone — other "gifted" kids in town believe she's the key to completing the powerful circle of witches. This supernatural soap is a perfect companion to "The Vampire Diaries," with just as much potential to be a huge hit for The CW. **Series premiere, 9 p.m., The CW**

▶ "The Secret Circle"

AMBER RAY

10 Big movies to see this weekend

2 'I Don't Know How She Does It'
You know what you're going to get out of this box of bonbons: Sarah Jessica Parker plays a mom trying to 'have it all' with kids, a career and Greg Kinnear.

3 'Straw Dogs'
Expect more bloodshed in this remake of the 1971 Sam Peckinpah classic film about a small back country village that doesn't take kindly to a native daughter returning to settle in with her new husband.

4 'The Lion King' in 3-D
For a limited time, you can Hakunah Matata yourself silly with the 3-D re-release of the 1994 Disney cash cow.

5 'Contagion'
Who among us would not enjoy two hours of visualizing the worst-case scenario of a global outbreak of an incurable disease? No? Well Matt Damon is in it, as are Kate Winslet and Marion Cotillard. That should change your mind.

6 'Warrior'
A tale of two boxing brothers makes us think of last year's giant hit, "The Fighter," but this film starring Joel Edgerton and Tom Hardy is an entirely different beast set in the mixed martial arts world.

7 'Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star'
The guy behind this summer's "Zookeeper," Adam Sandler, goes a bit more blue with this story about a clueless midwesterner who moves to L.A. in order to follow in his parents' footsteps and become an adult film star.

8 'The Debt'
Helen Mirren plays a secret agent seeking a Nazi criminal she first inwestigated in 1965; flashbacks go between present and past.

9 'Shark Night 3D'
Sharks will eat innocent humans by way of a demented psychopath who uses the deadly sea creatures as his instruments of torture.

10 'Apollo 18'
Revisionist history is always fun — especially when it involves aliens wandering the moon in the late 1960s. Comprised of "found footage," we hear this film being dubbed as "Blair Witch In Space." METRO

Must-see

▶ Hello, ol' blue eyes.

'Drive'

1 Nicolas Winding Refn directs this stunning modern noir about a stunt driver sucked into the L.A. crime underworld. We hope it will finally allow Ryan Gosling to be referred to as something other than "'The Notebook' guy."

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LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

▶ There's no such thing as a remake when it comes to newbie gamers. Look at "Starfox 64 3D."

Review

'Starfox 64 3D'
Console: 3DS
Company: NIntendo
Grade: ●●●●○

"Do a barrel roll" were the four words sweeping across dorms and bedrooms in 1997. Starfox 64 was an institution, turning the flight sim genre into a bona fide space opera. There were branching paths, amazing bosses and a multiplayer component that was more addictive than taking Adderall just to "finish that term paper." Fox is back and he's in 3-D.

This game was built from the ground up, and it shows. It's the best-looking game on the 3DS. Thanks to the magic of depth perception, the 3-D is a vital part of the gameplay. The only downside? The multiplayer is local only. Yes, it's 2011, and Nintendo still refuses to put their games online. Kind of a bummer — but an otherwise stellar experience.

Sidescroller

LAWRENCE BONK
LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

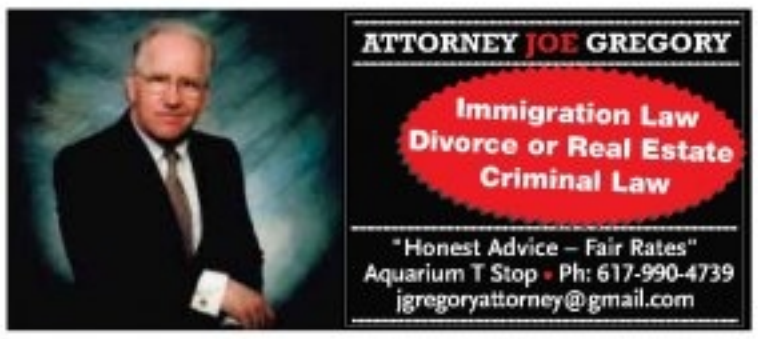
For every gamer born, another gives up the joystick to that ridiculous enterprise known as "real life." These new gamers are left rudderless, without elders to point them to the classics of yesteryear. Luckily, the magnanimous gaming industry is on task, pumping out remakes faster than you can say "Final Fantasy."

Review

'The ICO and Shadow of the Colossus Collection'
Console: PS3
Company: Sony
Grade: ●●●●○

The idea that video games can also be art probably wouldn't even exist without these two games. They are each sad, lonely and beautiful experiences that also work as actual, well, games. "ICO" has you trying to escape a stark and unforgiving castle. "Shadow of Colossus" tasks you with ridding the land of 16 giants that may or may not deserve it. They are both classics.

These updates add HD visuals, the option to play in 3D and tons of trophies and extras. Of the two, only "ICO" seems a bit dated, thanks to some unforgiving controls and rough partner AI. It was 2001 — give them a break.



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mba guide

Job market looking up for MBA-holders

- An improvement in vacancies in the last 12 months
- And recruiters pledge similar trend for the next year

New research shows that MBA job opportunities have increased this year compared to last, and they are set to increase further still in the next 12 months.

Released early September, the QS TopMBA.com Jobs and Salary Trends Report 2011/12 has found that responding MBA employers and recruiters in the USA and Canada expect their MBA hiring to increase by 110 percent during the remaining months of 2011 and into 2012.

Quoted

"2011 is proving to be a good year for MBA recruitment with employers around the world stocking up with new recruits."
NUNZIO QUACQUARELLI

"2011 is proving to be a good year for MBA recruitment with employers around the world stocking up with new recruits after a three-year lull; and the good times look set to continue," explains Nunzio Quacquarelli, director of the QS World MBA Tour and author of the influential report.

He adds: "The QS TopMBA.com Jobs and Salary Trends Report shows a 36 percent increase in global demand for MBAs overall in 2011 compared to 2010, a turnaround from the 5 percent decline experienced only two years ago in 2009."

Meanwhile, the Graduate Management Admission Council's Global Management Education Graduate Survey reports that 54 percent of all graduate business school students looking for employment had received at least one job offer when the survey was conducted in March. This is in comparison to 32 percent at the same time in 2010.

"In 2011, North American MBA graduates have fared better than their 2010 and 2009 counterparts," Quacquarelli continues. "North America remains the most developed and largest MBA employment market in the world."

Employers that reported significant MBA graduate hiring increases include the companies from the consulting, industry, finance and technology sectors. In fact, according to the report, the absolute number of MBAs hired into the consulting sector alone has quadrupled since 2000 — and it has increased six-fold since 1990 when the annual report was first published.
TOPMBA.COM

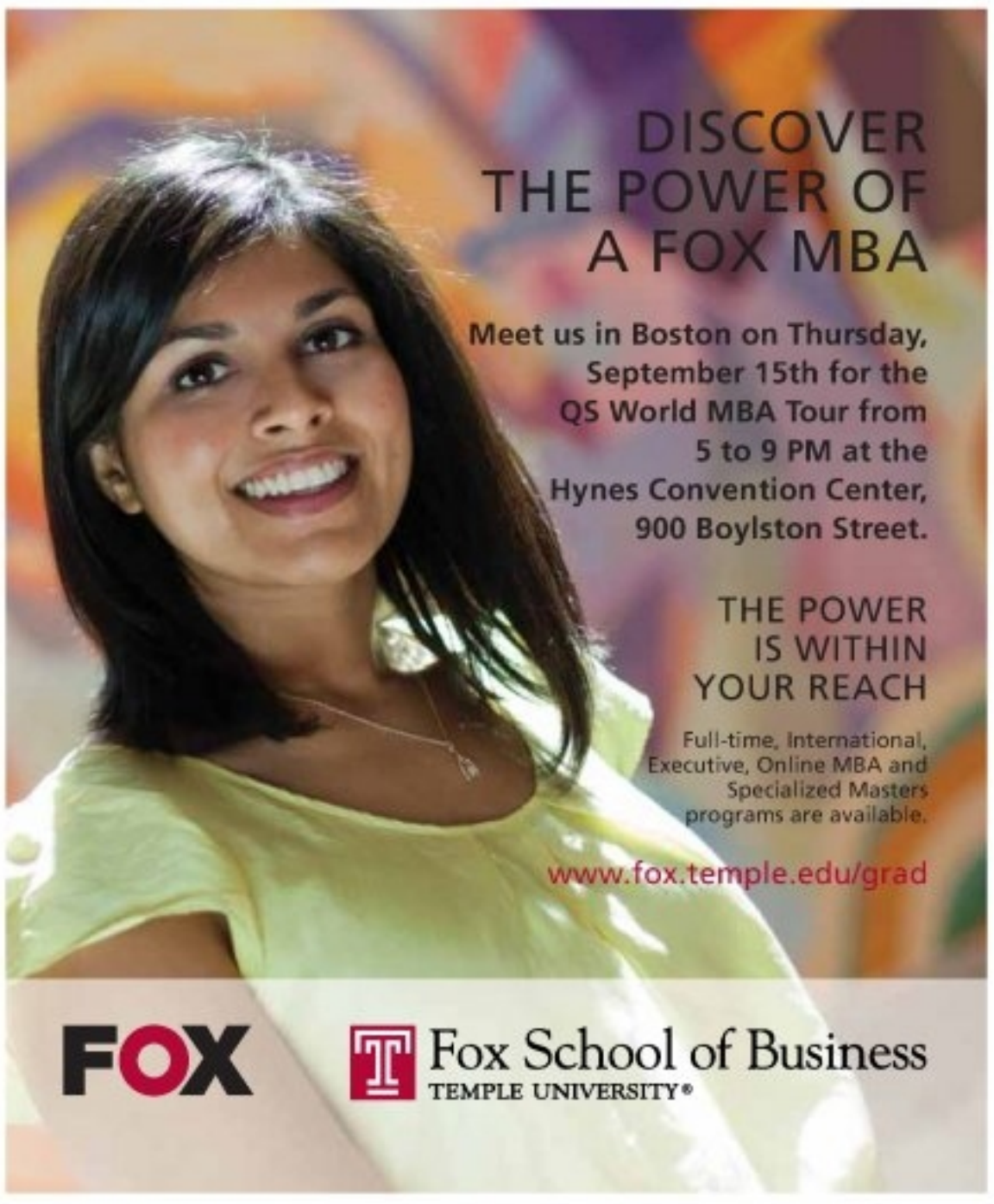
▶ More companies are looking to hire MBAs.

On a global scale

On a global scale, salaries are expected to increase. Average graduate salaries in Western Europe will increase by 9 percent over the next 12 months to $93,400.

"The sovereign debt crisis hitting the euro zone is not stopping companies actively recruiting MBAs in the region in 2011," says Quacquarelli. "This is likely to be driven by the high number of multinational companies in the region, which actively target MBAs. Western Europe felt the full force of the credit crunch and recent financial crisis, what is amazing is that MBA demand has remained robust."

36%
QS TopMBA.com Jobs and Salary Trends Report showed a 36 percent increase in global demand for MBAs overall in 2011 compared to 2010.



Salaries with an MBA

While MBA graduates are set to enjoy a greater amount of job openings compared to last year, compensation for those jobs is expected to remain steady in North America, at an average in excess of $87,000.

"MBA salaries in North America are stable," says Quacquarelli. "The recovery in the U.S. market is not as strong as recruiters were anticipating last year. And as a consequence, MBA hiring companies remain cautious. These companies are able to recruit the numbers of candidates they require without raising salary offers significantly."

"MBA salaries in North America are stable." QUACQUARELLI

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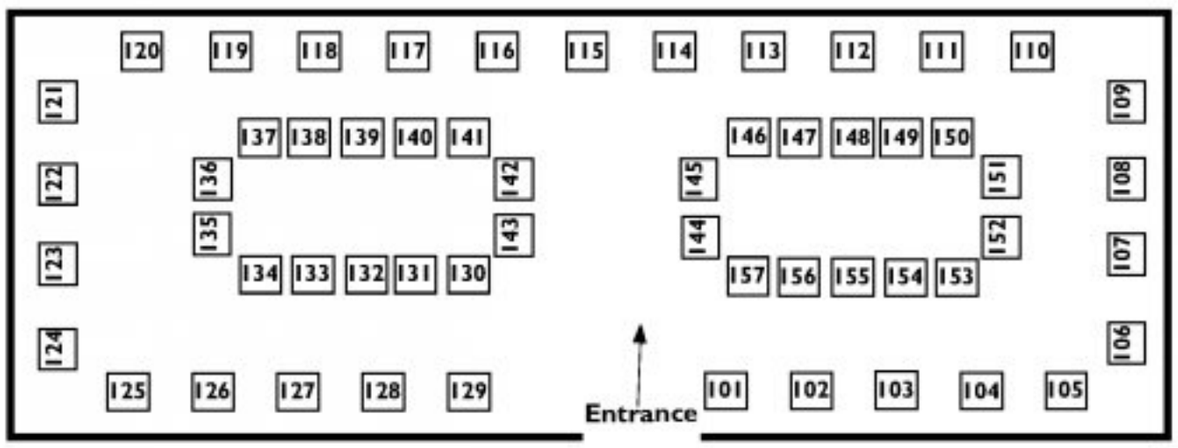

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7pm Alumni Panel Discussion:
Wharton, Harvard and Stanford

Room 305:

5pm Panel Discussion: MBA Admission Do's and Don'ts
Admissions Directors from Simmons, UCLA Anderson, Rochester Simon, IE, Hult and Bentley.

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157 Smurfit - UC Dublin	116 Birmingham	114 Fordham University GSB	129 UC Irvine - Merage	138 Wake Forest Univ. - Babcock
106 Trinity MBA - Univ. Dublin	136 London Business School	152 George Washington University	156 Univ. of Connecticut	155 Washington University - Olin
ITALY	**USA**	115 Georgetown Univ. - McDonough	132 Univ. of Denver - Daniels	118 Worcester Poly. Inst.
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myletters&games

Letters

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Pacifists are just cowards

RE: "LIBERATORS ARE ALSO TERRORISTS": The delusional gentleman who wrote this is wrong on all counts. The troops who liberated death camps did not slaughter Tribal Americans, because they had not been born yet. The "original sin" thinking promoted by self loathing Americans is just a logical fallacy — we do not bear the sins nor deserve the praise of those who came before us. Pacifists are natural cowards. If Dante was right, even Hell won't have them, for they believe in nothing. They refuse to act out of fear, fear of failure and of success. They just sit on the imagined moral high ground and let the world burn. **J.D. TORDOFF, VIA E-MAIL**

GOP only cares about the party

Tea/Republican Party members have shown that the party is more important than the Republic. The actual economy is based on money changing hands — I pay you, you pay the other person, etc. More tax breaks for the wealthy has little or no effect on the "real" economy. The economy has always blossomed when the middle class and working poor have more money. This is largely because we spend most of what we earn. **ANTHONY P. JOHNSON, VIA E-MAIL**

'Job creators' profit from jobs

RE: "CORPORATIONS CARE ABOUT US": Mr. Cleary suggests that having big corporations and wealthy income earners pay the equal percentage of taxes as the rest of us mere peasants would be punishment?! Why do they get to profit more with all the tax breaks and loopholes just because they make more money? Yes they may employ a lot of people, but by them doing so they also grow their business hence their profit. Then they outsource these jobs and are still benefiting from tax breaks. **YOVANNY HENNINGSEN, VIA E-MAIL**

Tea Party may love a getaway

Dear Tea Party supporters! There is a country that fits your ideals. There is no taxation, the government does not interfere in citizen's affairs, everybody is armed, every arising problem is decided on a local level and they teach creationism and worship in schools (if your kids go to school at all). The name of the country is Somalia. **VITALIY EPSHTEIN, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You won't go unnoticed, but just be sure you're attracting attention for all the right reasons. Make certain you're not being too self-serving.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When it comes to an agreement you're attempting to facilitate, you can expedite things by making some minor concessions. Set the example.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Be careful not to lock horns if you have to work in close proximity with someone who, like yourself, has his or her own way of doing things. Try to be accommodating.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** This might be one of those days when you could come off as being a bit one-sided with others. If you see something is amiss, adjust your scales to restore proper balance.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Before becoming unduly agitated with anybody, total up this person's pros and cons. There's a good chance you will find more to praise than condemn.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you hope to be successful, your objectives must first be clearly defined. If all you have are fuzzy outlines, don't start anything without developing a game plan.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It could turn out to be an expensive recess, if on a whim you decide to take a day off. There is likely to be an opportunity awaiting you at work that you won't want to miss.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Just because those who love you tolerate your anger or outbursts, it doesn't give you license to vent excessively. Behave in a civil manner.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't be your own worst enemy and read more into what people do or say than intended. All you'll do is make yourself miserable by falsely thinking that others harbor you ill will.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Assess the cost in terms of time and money before committing yourself to a group involvement. If the figures look like they're adding, you might want to gracefully bow out.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Figure out if the reason why things aren't going too well for you lately is simply due to poor timing, or something far more serious. Get all your ducks in a row before moving forward.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Those with whom you're involved will respond to you in the same manner as you treat them. If you find them likable, they'll be gracious and friendly to you. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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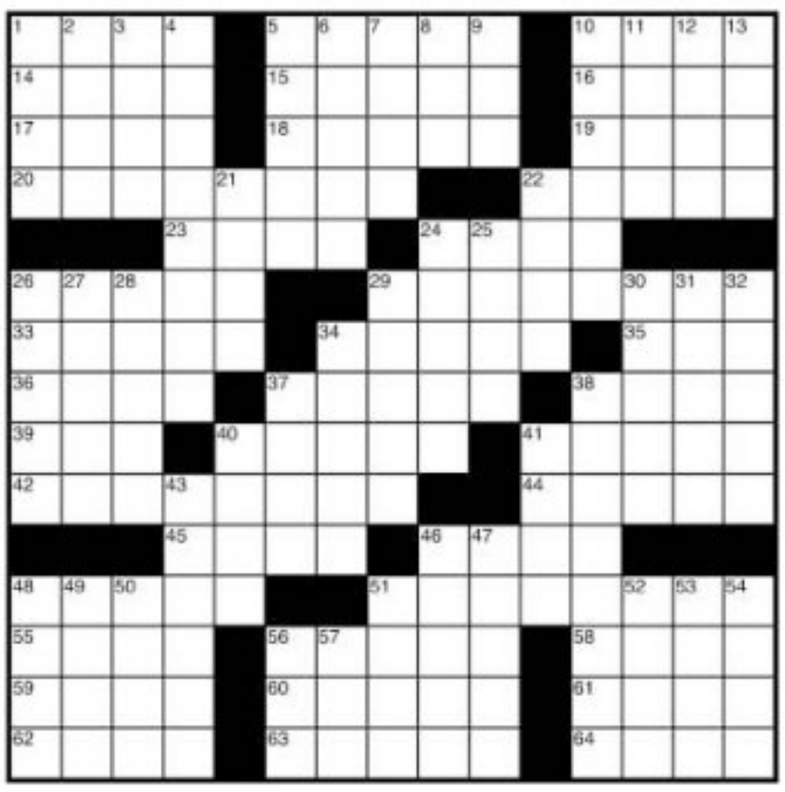
Across
1 Talk big
5 1960s hairdos
10 Fluctuate
14 Gray wolf
15 Mild recession
16 If not
17 Cat's-paw
18 Mammy Yokum
19 Igneous rock, once
20 Turkey filler
22 Minor mistakes
23 Pass the __
24 In __ (as found)
26 Muppet grouch
29 House feature
33 Disagreeable people
34 Dutch export
35 Neckline type
36 Indigo plant
37 Mooring posts
38 Cereal holder
39 Hasty escape
40 Thick wools
41 Country bumpkin
42 Hiss
44 Lutz alternatives
45 Beatty and Buntline
46 Coyote's plaint
48 Roof topping
51 Unclean
55 Refer to
56 Not quite right
58 Cathedral part
59 Shaman's quest
60 Coffee + steamed milk
61 Manitoba tribe
62 Conductor's baton
63 Hawke or Coen
64 Do damage to

Down
1 Diner orders
2 Show team spirit
3 __ Ben Adhem
4 Duffer's need
5 Tomato jelly
6 Side
7 Ladder part
8 Mantra chants
9 Go undercover
10 Expensive paper
11 Jai __
12 Host's plea
13 Pro votes
21 Expensive coats
22 Dance move
24 Flavors the popcorn
25 Cow-headed goddess
26 Translucent gems
27 Mideast desert
28 Scale a peak
29 Flat-topped hill
30 Call forth
31 Stair post
32 Informs
34 Does a no-no in pinball
37 Tiny sphere
38 Picnic to go (2 wds.)
40 Leave in a hurry
41 Ketch's cousin
43 Mean to
46 Shade-loving plant
47 Merlin __, former NFLer
48 Barge
49 City or bean
50 Ra's symbol
51 Kind of helmet
52 Scarlett O'Hara estate
53 Constantly
54 Regard as
56 Pub pint
57 Floor pad



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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T	E	N	D		H	E	F	T		M	A	N	S	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Blue Inc. gets the blue ribbon

- New venture from Jason Santos is big, bold and light on the gimmicks
- Be sure to save room for dessert, because the clafouti is peachy keen

Remember Lobby Bar, the after-work drinks spot by the Greenway? No, neither do we. Because its replacement, Blue Inc., far surpasses ... ol' whats-its-name. Chef/owner Jason Santos, formerly of Gargoyles on the Square (and also Season 7 of "Hell's Kitchen") seems to have a winner. Yes-yes, Santos splashes his hair with blue color, prison tattoos are blue-inked — all very edgy. OK, move on. Gimmicks are thankfully few at Blue, a small, sleek, white restaurant with a mod feel. The mod feel comes from the giant Twiggy photo and a pavement patio with views of the now beautifully greened Rose Kennedy Greenway.

▶ So that's why it's called Blue! Santos is pictured in his "Hell's Kitchen" promo shot.

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ When you're sitting at the bar at Blue Inc., it's hard to actually be blue.

Santos' menu is bold, as you might expect from this everything-including-the-kitchen-sink cook; but he's discovered finesse without sacrificing striking flavors. A lobster and summer truffle soup ($13) has lots of lobster meat, al dente fava beans, earthy porcinis and big shavings of truffle. The cauliflower espuma and bee pollen hang back in the dish, but everything mingles to create a dense broth. It's perfect.

And how about the grilled salmon ($24)? There's a dish unlikely to tempt the palate of diners; but thankfully, Santos breaks the mold with his version. He drizzles the much-used fish with a tiger shrimp butter and accompanies it with peas that are just out of the petit stage of their lives but still have a youthful sweetness. A bed of parsnip puree is beautifully creamy and unsalted. The fish itself has none of this "raw in the center" business. The salmon is cooked through to accentuate its natural oils and is just crisped on its edges. It's a lesson in salmon grilling.

And for dessert...

Clafouti can be a clod of a dessert. But Blue Inc.'s pastry chef Nicole Harrington, formerly of Menton, poaches peaches in brandy for the pudding and dots the finished plate with tangy yuzu curd, a fabulous mint gel and summer peach ice cream ($9). The result is delicate, fresh and glorious.

Blue Inc.
131 Broad St., Boston
617-261-5353
www.blueincboston.com

A guy walks into a bar

Each week we ask a different celebrity what they look for in a nightlife experience. This week, Jonah Hill talks about his old-fashioned preferences.

METRO/PH

JONAH HILL

What's important to you in a good bar?
"Good lighting and good music. ... I like more of an old-school feel to bars as opposed to new, techy nightclub places. The music can be loud, it just has to be good."

What's your go-to drink?
"I tend to do beer and shots of tequila. ... I tend to order something nice like Patron. Patron is my brand. And then beer, I just love beer. I'm an old-fashioned American man, and I love nothing more than a cold beer."

Join the club

Each week, we tell you about the songs you should be sweating to in clubs.

'Little Bad Girl' by David Guetta, featuring Taio Cruz and Ludacris

Guetta teamed up with Flo Rida and Nicki Minaj to create what may have been the club jam of the summer with "Where Them Girls At." Now he says "Keep it goin' girl ... I got an encore," with the second track on his "Nothing But the Beat" disc. The song is currently No. 5 on the Billboard Club Music chart. As the opening video-game riff gives way to the dance floor thump and Taio Cruz sings about putting his "hands up in the urrr" you'll find yourself doing the same. And the chant-along chorus of "Go, little bad girl" begs for every lady in the club to vie for the title role. As for Ludacris' rap, he's still on probation for his immortally bad rap in Justin Bieber's "Baby."

METRO/PH

drinks

Mix up a gem of a cocktail

COURTESY OF ART IN THE AGE

▶ RHUBY joins ROOT and SNAP in Art in the Age's liquor cabinet.

Shelf life

What we're drinking this week:

RHUBY

WHAT IT IS:
Art in the Age's latest bottle is a certified organic 80-proof spirit distilled from rhubarb (hence the name), beets and carrots — among other ingredients found in fancier spice cabinets.

PLAYS NICE WITH:
Whiskey, gin, Campari, vodka and, in a pinch, rum. Don't be fooled by the classy bottle — RHUBY can get down with just about whatever's on your shelf.

WHAT IT TASTES LIKE:
Bright, snappy and just sweet enough — thanks to pink peppercorns, coriander and vanilla. It's right at home in something fresh and fruity for the final days of summer, but we bet RHUBY could really heat up a toddy, too.

NOTABLE FACTS:
Ben Franklin brought the first rhubarb seeds to America in 1771, and promptly brewed up some special "tea" with his "botanist" pal John Bartram. Clearly, we missed the cool tea parties.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

Cocktail of the week

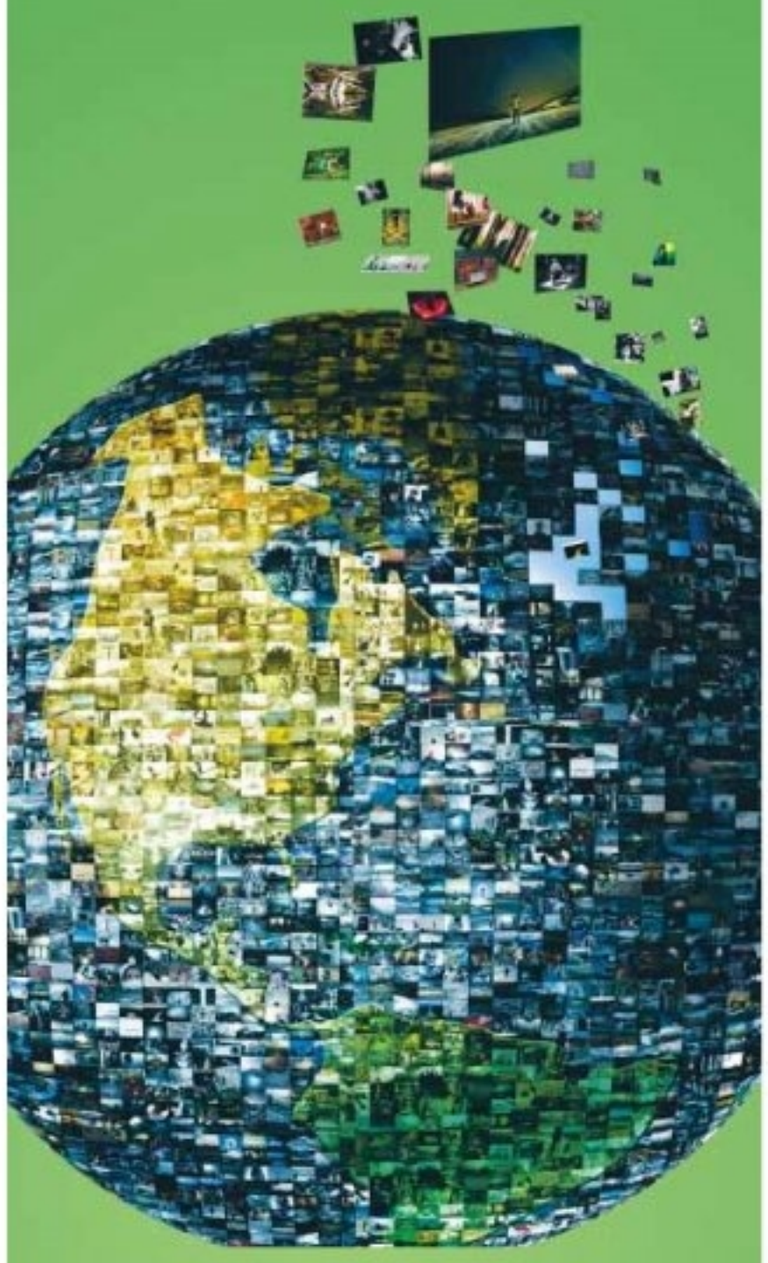
Cucumber RHUBY gimlet

What's in it
- **1.5 oz.** gin
- **1 oz.** RHUBY
- **.5 oz.** simple syrup
- **2** fresh mint leaves
- Local cucumbers
- Fresh lime wedges

How to make it
Muddle mint and cucumber. Squeeze in lime. Add all ingredients into mixing glass. Shake and pour into a rocks glass.

Hunt's PHOTO & VIDEO
metro PHOTO CHALLENGE

The photos in picture are from previous editions of Photo Challenge.



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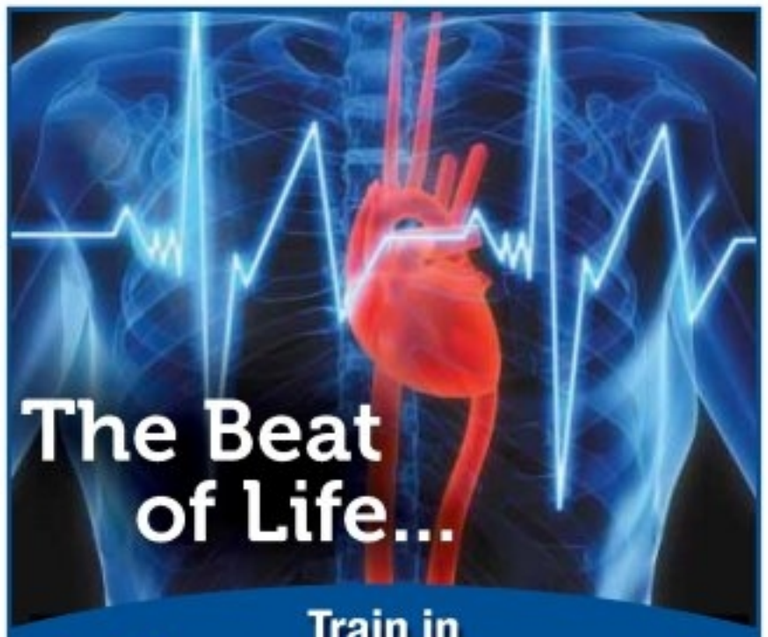

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To learn more about this 6-month research study, please call:

617-355-2500

Children's Hospital Boston

What's that song?

Every week Metro goes into a club or bar and brings back a list sampling the music that's played. At 11:15 p.m. last Friday, this is what was playing at Trina's Starlite Lounge (Three Beacon St., Somerville). For information, call 617-576-0006 or visit www.trinasstarlite lounge.com

'The Reeling' Passion Pit

'Don't Kiss Me Goodbye' Ultra Orange and Emmanuelle

'Turn the Page' The Streets

'Separator' Radiohead

'Guns Are Drawn' The Roots

Listings highlights

Going out

Running of the Bulls
Saturday, 12:30 p.m.
Faneuil Hall, 3 Faneuil Hall Marketplace., Boston
$5, crawlinboston@gmail.com
www.crawlinboston.com
Crawlers in Boston, a social networking group for young professionals, will bring the action of Pamplona to Quincy Market with this first ever Running of the Bulls bar crawl. The actual "run" will last about 15 minutes, then it's on to some of Boston's best bars for a $3 or less drink. "Olé Olé Olé!" That's an Olé! for each dollar; and though we hope you don't spend much more than that, you really should remember to tip your bartender.

The SpeakEasy takes on "Next Fall" this fall.

Dating

Project Smile 5th Annual Charity Date Auction
Friday, 6:30 p.m.
Gypsy Bar
116 Boylston St., Boston
$17, 508-634-0203
www.projectsmile.org
Boston's most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes (including a host of hot firefighters and police officers) are joining forces and clearing their calendars for this charity event. Winning bidders will not only help out a great cause, but will also receive a gift card to one of the city's best spots to use on their date.

Theater

'Next Fall'
Friday through Oct. 15
Roberts Studio Theatre
527 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$50, 617-933-8600
www.speakeasystage.com
This play gives a witty and honest look into the unlikely relationship between two gay men — one devoutly religious and one devoutly atheist. Nominated for a Tony last year, "Next Fall" explores today's social constraints and political injustices that can drive even the most loving couples apart.

Movies

27th Boston Film Festival
Friday through Thursday
Stuart Street Playhouse
200 Stuart St., Boston
$9, 617-426-4499
www.bostonfilmfestival.org
Bostonians get a taste of Hollywood during this week of film premieres that are both local and national. Actors Mike O'Malley ("Glee"), Bobby Moynihan ("Saturday Night Live") and Sam Jaeger ("Parenthood") are just a few of the names scheduled to appear.

Music

Squeezebox Slam
Saturday, noon
Various locations
Somerville
Free
www.somervilleartscouncil.org
An accordion flash-mob of sorts will take over the streets of Somerville in celebration of the many cultures that use a variation of the instrument in their music. Anyone with a squeezebox is welcome to play and join in on the fun.

Animals

Somerville Dog Festival
Sunday, 10 a.m.
Conway Park
560 Somerville Ave., Somerville
Free, 617-628-5588
www.somervilledogfestival.org
Strut your mutt at this event, which features a dog/owner look-a-like contest, frisbee games and a dog fashion show.

Art

Disponible: A Kind of Mexican Show
Through Nov. 19
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, 230 the Fenway, Boston
Free, 617-267-6100
www.smfa.edu
Eight contemporary Mexican artists present work in a variety of media. METRO

listings

T|A|G
theater & arts guide

MUSIC

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September 16th : 4 pm - 7 pm
Ashmont/Peabody Market
September 18th : 12 pm - 3 pm
Harvard Square Market

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INFO & LYRICS: www.revels.org

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www.bostonconservatory.edu/perform

THEATER

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an evening with Bill T. Jones

October, 1 at 8PM Blackman Theatre Northeastern Univ.
Bill T Jones, multi-talented artist, choreographer, dancer, theater director and writer will share his candid and perceptive observations about the art of directing, choreography and the life of an artist. Mr. Jones' work has been recognized with 2010 Tony Award for best choreography of FELA!, a Tony Award for Spring Awakening and the 2010 Kennedy Center Honors.
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‘Very silly, kind of off the wall’

CHRISTIE GOODWIN/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ For Bill Bailey to get his point across, a regular old six-string will not do. He needs a six-neck!

Brit comic Bill Bailey opens up his ‘Dandelion Mind’ to American audiences ◐ If you like some smarts with your laughs, he’s your guy

Bill Bailey is not afraid to throw out a reference to Thomas the Apostle, to test his audience’s knowledge on British government or to build a clever joke around his thoughts on the biology of empathy.

“Audiences like to feel smart,” says the British surreal comic. “I want them to think and say ‘Yeah, I knew about that guy!’ Or if they don’t, I want them to try and look it up.”

Bailey would probably fare well with nothing but this fiercely witty routine and a mic, but his newest offering “Dandelion Mind” is more than just your average stand-up act — it’s a multimedia extravaganza.

Bailey’s mix of animated video clips, live music and light shows do a fantastic job of complementing his nonsequential approach to comedy.

“It’s almost integral to the show,” Bailey says of the different components. With an abundance of stimuli, he says, “you’re able to constantly tune into and be surprised by different forms of comedy.”

Already somewhat of a household name in the UK, Bailey is looking forward to bringing his act to American audiences.

“I’ve wanted to do this for years,” he says.

Bailey will be in good company, as we’ve seen happen many times before with British comedic imports like “The Office,” Simon Pegg and Monty Python.

Bailey says he’s always been a fan of intellectual humor, citing Python as a major influence.

“When I’d listen to [Monty Python] as a young boy, they’d make me think and want to look up these names I didn’t understand to get the joke.”

Like Bailey himself, he says of Python that “they were very silly, kind of off the wall … and I think those elements I’ve really adopted and put into my shows.”

If you go

‘Bill Bailey: Dandelion Mind’
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$30-$35, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

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Nov. 27
TD Garden
(On sale Friday)

▶ Childish Gambino
with Sign Up
Nov. 2
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ Sting
Back To Bass Tour
Oct. 21
Citi Performing Arts Center Wang Theatre
(On sale Monday)

Rajko Orchestra
Tonight, 8, Johnny D’s
17 Holland St., Somerville
$15-$41, 617-776-2004
www.johnnyds.com
This decades-old, internationally-touring Hungarian group specializes in the Gypsy music of their homeland from the 19th and 20th centuries. They’ll be reduced to an eight-piece ensemble tonight, but other times they’re a full orchestra with dozens of members, including dancers. Their music overflows with dark, haunting beauty, and they play it with equal parts heart and virtuosity.

MARIAN/FLICKR

▶ One of the wonderful folks of Rajko

Sound of Struggle: A Classical Concert for Bhopal
Saturday, 6 p.m.
Killian Hall, MIT
160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge
$5-$10, 617-610-4120
www.boston4bhopal.org/soundofstruggle
Pavitra Kumar (piano) and Frank Graves (violin) will play selections from Prokofiev, Mendelssohn and Barber. Proceeds from the concert go to the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal, which fights for the survivors of the devastating 1984 explosion at an American-owned pesticide plant in the city of Bhopal, India. Eleven thousand people died as a result.

MATTHEW DINARO

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music

Come here often?

MARTY JOHNSON/METRO

Plough and Stars

- **Names:** Orion Smith (left, 33, Cambridge) Roberta Halloran (right, 30, Somerville);
- **What are you drinking?** Dale's Pale Ale (both)
- **Come Here Often?**

Halloran: Haven't been here for almost a full year.
Smith: Probably a few times a year.

- **What do you like about it?**

RH: I love the music here.
OS: Yeah, I like that it is really kind of cozy but not overpoweringly crowded.
RH: They have live music that's going to come on at 10:30 tonight. ... It's generally live music during many nights of the week, so it's always a known good time.

WHAT THE DJ SAYS

Joe Bermudez

▶ Hear Bermudez online at www.massmovementradio.com

Joe Bermudez is a DJ of all trades. His remix of Britney Spears' "I Wanna Go" topped the Billboard Dance/Club chart late last month. He also produces a weekly radio show for XM satellite radio that you can download at www.massmovementradio.com. On Sept. 29, he spins at Bond (250 Franklin St., Boston); on Oct. 8, he'll be spinning at Down (184 High St., Boston). Here are a few of the tracks that really get his crowds jumping — and what he has to say about them.

'Party Rock Anthem'

by LMFAO
Without a doubt the biggest dance record of the year. From the radio to the club to even a Kia commercial, there is just no escaping this one. No matter where I am, it is the one track that never fails to rock the house.

'Save The World'

by Swedish House Mafia
Individually Axwell, Angello and Ingrosso are pretty huge, so combine those talents and you are going to get a track that is sonically massive. This is a big male vocal over even bigger synths. I've had some pretty epic moments while playing this record.

'Levels'

by Avicii
This Swedish producer has a really nice buzz about him and for good reason. His uplifting chord progressions instantly transport clubgoers to a euphoric state. When I play this record, all you see is smiles throughout the crowd. It's a great feeling.

'Live Those Days Tonight'

by Friendly Fires
Tim Green has transformed this alternative rock track into a really sweet club jam. It's probably my favorite remix of the summer. Every time I hear it, I personally get fired up. When I play this record, you know it's go time!

Essential ...

'I Wanna Go' by Britney Spears
This is my favorite remix that I've done this year. The bass line sounds great in the club, and I love watching all the girls sing along to it. It has become one of those records that if I didn't play it, people would get mad at me.

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

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Marchand knew deal would get done

Technically, Brad Marchand's future was in the air all summer.

To everyone except him, that is.

The 23-year-old left wing, who agreed to terms on a two-year contract with the Bruins yesterday, said he always wanted to stay in Boston, and knew all along "it was just a matter of time" before something got done.

"I don't think I was getting nervous," Marchand said on a conference call with reporters yesterday. "I was just getting anxious. As camp approached, I wanted to be there."

He will be, with a boatload of cash. Marchand is reportedly due to earn $2 million this year and $3 million next year.

He'd been skating at captains' practices, even without a contract in place.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Marchand

"I had a feeling it would get done," Boston GM Peter Chiarelli said.

"It's nice to finish this business before camp. If you fall behind in camp, it's hard to catch up. I didn't think it would get to that stage, and it didn't."

ADAM SMARTSCHAN

Another easy one? Pats don't think so

The Patriots' home opener is just days away ◐ Don't expect it to be as easy as Week 1 against Miami ◐ San Diego has historically been difficult

Drink it in, Patriots fans.

In just a few days the muskets will be loaded in Foxborough, and the Patriots will be kicking off their home opener against the Chargers.

But while San Diego never seems to have quite enough in the tank to bring a Super Bowl to So-Cal, they always put up a fight against the Pats.

In fact, since 2001, the Patriots are just 3-3 against the Chargers in the regular season — most recently squeaking out a 23-20 win in San Diego last season, nearly blowing a 23-3 fourth-quarter lead.

The Bolts went just 9-7 last year, but they led the NFL in total offense (395.6 ypg) and total defense (271.6 ypg).

"Real good football team," Bill Belichick said yesterday. "They have a lot of good players; they have a lot of good depth. They have some good young players ... So really, they're pretty strong across the board, and they're a tough team to get ready for."

If you thought Chad Henne carved up the Patriots secondary, hold onto your beers. Philip Rivers can throw with the best of them; he's surpassed 4,000 passing yards three years running.

"Great quarterback and great offensive line, so it's going to be a tough challenge," defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth said.

And don't count on a typically slow start from San Diego.

"I think they've gotten off to some slow starts the last few years, but it doesn't look like they're starting slow this year," Brady said. "I think that's really been a point of emphasis for them. This year you can really see it on film."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ DT Albert Haynesworth said he's expecting a "tough challenge" Sunday against San Diego.

On the air Sunday

Patriots vs. Chargers
4:15 p.m., CBS, 98.5 FM

Behind enemy lines

The Chargers have plenty of respect for the Patriots.

QB Philip Rivers
"I think anytime you play this defense, you've got to always be ready for the unexpected. One thing you know going in is that they're going to play disciplined football."

Coach Norv Turner
"Obviously, they've always been a great passing team. But to add the number of explosive players really jumped out at you."

▶ Dan Koppen is reportedly facing ankle surgery.

Brady: Connolly just fine

Tom Brady will be under a new center come Sunday. It's a good thing, then, that he seems to have plenty of confidence in Dan Connolly.

"He understands the system," Brady said. "He understands the calls."

Coach Bill Belichick said Patriots QBs take snaps from every center on the roster routinely in practice.

METRO

Quoted

"It's amazing to see because you don't understand it. You still don't understand it, and it's amazing to you because you can't get it."

TEDY BRUSCHI, RIPPING CHAD OCHOCINCO FOR BEING "IN AWE" OF TOM BRADY

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.331

Sounds like former Red Sox pitcher Curt Leskanic started "drinking early" this week. The 2004 World Series champion is facing DUI and child neglect without harm charges in Florida. He was arrested asleep at the wheel of his pickup at a stop light with a .331 BAC — four times the legal limit.

Red Sox behind Bard

Daniel Bard is struggling even worse than the Red Sox as a whole.

But teammates aren't throwing the setup man — who blew yet another save in yesterday's 5-4 loss to Toronto — under the bus.

"Daniel's been the hugest part of this bullpen, he and Pap," captain Jason Varitek said. "He's had a tough little stretch for the last few outings. We need Daniel. Daniel's going to pitch well. Period."

Bard has given up runs in four of his last five outings, and sports a hefty 17.36 ERA in September.

He blames a mechanical problem for the woes.

"The timing with my delivery is just not there," he said. "I can feel it on every pitch. Something feels a little bit different."

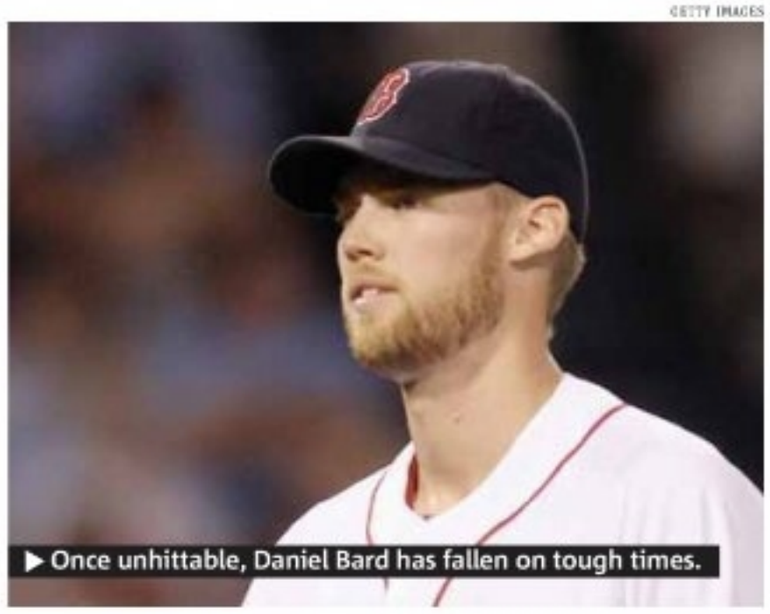
METRO

Here comes Tampa Bay

The Rays — who trailed the Sox by 3.5 games in the wild card going into last night's action — are at Fenway Park tonight.

Kyle Weiland will start for Boston. Jeremy Hellickson is slated for Tampa Bay.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Once unhittable, Daniel Bard has fallen on tough times.

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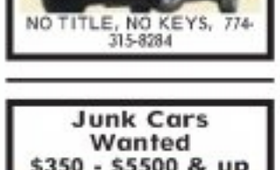

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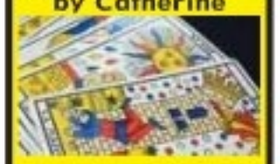

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